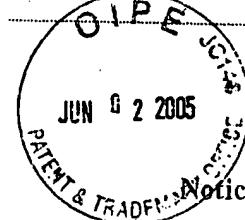




UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



10/659065

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)

The amendment document filed on 5/18/03 is considered non-compliant because it has failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121. In order for the amendment document to be compliant, correction of the following item(s) is required. Only the corrected section of the non-compliant amendment document must be resubmitted (in its entirety), e.g., the entire "Amendments to the claims" section of applicant's amendment document must be re-submitted. 37 CFR 1.121(h).

THE FOLLOWING CHECKED (X) ITEM(S) CAUSE THE AMENDMENT DOCUMENT TO BE NON-COMPLIANT:

1. Amendments to the specification:
 A. Amended paragraph(s) do not include markings.
 B. New paragraph(s) should not be underlined.
 C. Other
2. Abstract:
 A. Not presented on a separate sheet. 37 CFR 1.72.
 B. Other
3. Amendments to the drawings: Each sheet of drawing must be labeled
Replacement or Annotated.
4. Amendments to the claims:
 A. A complete listing of all of the claims is not present.
 B. The listing of claims does not include the text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims)
 C. Each claim has not been provided with the proper status identifier, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified. Note: the status of every claim must be indicated after its claim number by using one of the following 7 status identifiers: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Withdrawn), (Previously presented), (New) and (Not entered).
 D. The claims of this amendment paper have not been presented in ascending numerical order.
 E. Other:

For further explanation of the amendment format required by 37 CFR 1.121, see MPEP Sec. 714 and the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognocice/officeflyer.pdf>.

If the non-compliant amendment is a **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**, applicant is given ONE MONTH from the mail date of this letter to supply the corrected section which complies with 37 CFR 1.121. Failure to comply with 37 CFR 1.121 will result in non-entry of the preliminary amendment and examination on the merits will commence without consideration of the proposed changes in the preliminary amendment(s). This notice is not an action under 35 U.S.C. 132, and this **ONE MONTH** time limit is not extendable.

If the non-compliant amendment is a reply to a **NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION** (including a submission for an RCE), and since the amendment appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to be a reply (37 CFR 1.135(c)), applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of ONE MONTH from the mailing of this notice within which to re-submit the corrected section which complies with 37 CFR 1.121 in order to avoid abandonment. **EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD ARE AVAILABLE UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

If the amendment is a reply to a **FINAL REJECTION**, this form may be an attachment to an Advisory Action. **The period for response to a final rejection continues to run from the date set in the final rejection**, and is not affected by the non-compliant status of the amendment.

Smith
Legal Instruments Examiner (LIE)

(571)272-1622
Telephone No.

Revised Amendment Practice

- Amendments to **Drawings**
 - must include Replacement Sheet(s) which will be entered
 - may also include Annotated Marked-up Drawing(s) which is not to be entered as part of the drawings
 - each sheet of replacement or annotated drawings must be labeled in the top margin as “replacement” or “annotated”

July 30, 2003

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Revised Amendment Practice

- Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment
 - To be used for preliminary amendments and non-final amendments
 - On the form:
 - Identify the section of the amendment paper not in compliance (e.g., amdts to spec., amdts to clms.)
 - Specify the non-compliant item(s) (e.g., no status identifiers, no text for withdrawn claims, etc.)
 - Form completed and legibly signed by LIE with phone number. Team Leader signature no longer required
 - Non-compliant section of the amendment is not entered
 - all other sections are to be entered

July 30, 2003

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